

MISCELLANY

Items for the News column must be furnished by the twentieth of the preceding month. Under this department are grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and Twenty-Five Years Ago. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Pacific Association of Railway Surgeons.—The Pacific Association of Railway Surgeons held its twenty-eighth annual meeting at the Hotel Coronado, San Diego, on August 22-23. Scientific programs were given on Friday and also Saturday morning. On Saturday evening the visiting members adjourned for other diversions to Agua Caliente, in old Mexico. On Friday there was a symposium on emergency treatment of various injuries, and a paper on fractures of the leg. On Saturday morning, following the presidential address and business meeting, there was a paper on "Compression Fractures of the Vertebrae" by Doctors Dunlap and Parker of Pasadena, and a progress report on cancer research work by Doctors Coffey and Humber of San Francisco. Most of the members of the association traveled south to San Diego in special cars from San Francisco, stopping off on Thursday at Los Angeles, where the visiting members were entertained by the Los Angeles members of the association with a barbecue dinner and other entertainment at the Uplifters' Ranch in Santa Monica Canyon.

New Homeopathic Hospital.—The regents of the University of California have reconveyed to the Hahnemann Hospital Corporation the building situated upon the corner of California and Maple streets, San Francisco, and plans are now being considered for the razing of the old building and construction of a new homeopathic hospital.

The homeopathic profession is being congratulated upon the prospects of soon having a hospital of its own.—*Pacific Coast Journal of Homeopathy*, August 1930.

Walter C. Alvarez Lecture.—At the thirty-second Annual Session of The American Gastro-Enterological Association, held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, May 6-7, 1929, Dr. Frank Smithies donated a fund with the object of the association's securing annually a guest speaker of national prominence in research work.

The proceeds of the fund assure an honorarium to the invited guest of \$100. This annual address is to be known as "The Walter C. Alvarez Lecture."—*Official Bulletin of the Chicago Medical Society*.

Symposium on Benign and Malignant Lesions of Bone.—On September 15, 16 and 17, 1930, beginning Monday morning at 10 o'clock and ending on Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock, in the ballroom of the Belvedere Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, will be held a meeting for the study of benign and malignant lesions of bone. Dr. Joseph C. Bloodgood extends an invitation to all radiologists interested in the diagnosis and treatment of bone tumors.

On account of the size of the ballroom the number must be limited to eight hundred. Those who wish to attend should write the manager of the Belvedere Hotel.

For further details address Miss Maude Walker, secretary to Doctor Bloodgood, Surgical Pathological Laboratory, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.

The Grace Deere Velie Metabolic Clinic was made possible through the beneficence of Grace Deere

Velie, who left an endowment in the neighborhood of \$800,000. Slightly over \$300,000 has been expended for the buildings and equipment. The purpose of the clinic, as set forth in the articles of incorporation, is primarily to conduct investigative work in metabolism, and for the intensive study and treatment of patients suffering from metabolic diseases.

The clinic will have facilities for taking care of twenty-five patients, with complete laboratory equipment for diagnosis and research. There are five research laboratories and an animal house with laboratory and operating room in connection.

The clinic will not be conducted for profit, though it is expected that the income from care of patients will pay part of the operating expenses, leaving the major part of the residual endowment available for research.

The initial staff will consist of:

R. A. Kocher, A. B. Stanford; M. D., Johns Hopkins; postgraduate study, Munich, 1912-1914. Published numerous researches in metabolism.

Paul B. Hartley, A. B., M. D., Northwestern Medical School, Chicago, 1925. Resident St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago. Postgraduate work in metabolism, Northwestern Medical School, Chicago.

Elmer Messner, A. M. Stanford; Cand. Ph. D., University Breslau, 1928-1930, research chemist.

Doctors Rodenbaugh and Ingber, roentgenologists.

Additions to the staff are expected to be made in the future.

The clinic at Carmel will be open to the public August 10, 1930.

Western Branch of the American Urological Association.—The next annual meeting of the western branch of the American Urological Association will be held in Los Angeles, September 18 to 20, 1930.

Officers of National Board of Medical Examiners.—

At the recent annual meeting of the national board, the following officers were elected: Waller S. Leathers, president; Everett S. Elwood, executive secretary; J. S. Rodman, medical secretary.

In addition to the officers, eight new members were elected for terms of six years each. Three of these are representatives of the Federation of State Boards of Medical Examiners in the United States. They are as follows: T. J. Crowe, secretary, Board of Medical Examiners for the State of Texas; J. Gurney Taylor, member of the Wisconsin State Board of Medical Examiners; and J. H. J. Upham, dean of the Ohio State University College of Medicine and member of the Ohio State Medical Board.

The remaining five members were elected at large. They are as follows: Charles A. Elliott, professor of medicine, Northwestern University Medical School; William DeB. MacNider, professor of pharmacology, University of North Carolina School of Medicine; Walter W. Palmer, professor of medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; E. D. Plass, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, the State University of Iowa College of Medicine; and Charles R. Stockard, professor of anatomy, Cornell University Medical College.

The reports of the officers of the board showed an increase of approximately 10 per cent in the number

of candidates taking the examinations during the past year as compared with the year previous.

The number of state boards now recognizing the national board's certificate total forty, besides the territories of Hawaii and Porto Rico and the Canal Zone. Partial recognition is also granted the national board's examinations by England, Scotland, Ireland, and Spain.

Examinations in Part I and II were scheduled and given in forty-one centers throughout the country; there being a total of 707 candidates registered for Part I and 337 for Part II. Examinations in Part III, the clinical and practical examination, were held in sixteen centers in June and July, with approximately 280 registered candidates.

Annual Award for Study of Goiter.—At the recent meeting of the American Association for the Study of Goiter at Seattle, Washington, Dr. William F. Rienhoff, Jr., of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, received the annual award of \$300 for the best essay dealing with the goiter problem. Doctors O. P. Kimball of Cleveland, Ohio; E. P. and D. R. McCullagh, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio, and Robert P. Ball of University of Louisville received honorable mention.

John Phillips Memorial Prize.—The American College of Physicians has announced the John Phillips Memorial Prize of \$1500 to be awarded for the most meritorious contribution in internal medicine and in sciences contributing thereto. The thesis must be based on published or unpublished original work and mailed to the executive secretary of the college on or before August 31, 1930; it must be in English, in triplicate, typewritten or printed, and the work on which it is based must have been done in whole or in part in the United States or Canada. The recipient of the prize would be expected to read the essay at the next annual meeting of the college. Announcement of the prize will be made not later than two months before the annual meeting; the college reserves the right to make no award of the prize if a sufficiently meritorious piece of work has not been received. It is a memorial to Dr. John Phillips, who lost his life in the Cleveland Clinic disaster last year. The executive secretary of the college is E. R. Loveland, 133-135 South Thirty-sixth Street, Philadelphia.—*Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*, July 1930.

Department for Medical History at Johns Hopkins University.—Joseph S. Ames, LL. D., president, recently announced a gift from the General Education Board, totaling \$312,500, for the establishment of a department of the history of medicine. The sum is in addition to \$750,000 previously given to build the William H. Welch Medical Library and \$250,000 for the maintenance of the professorship in the history of medicine which is occupied by Dr. William H. Welch. The gift is given in the form of \$12,500 for each of five years and then a capital sum of \$250,000, making possible provision for other professorships in the department of the history of medicine. Since the library was first planned, it is reported, it has been the wish of the authorities at Johns Hopkins to create a full department to investigate the various branches of medical history.—*Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges*, July 1930.

Board of Medical Examiners.—The issuance of fifty licenses to applicants during June brought the total number of licentiates operating under the jurisdiction of the Board of Medical Examiners up to 11,417. This total was reduced at the end of the month, however, by the removal of the names of twelve deceased licentiates from the roster, leaving an actual total of 11,405 licentiates at the close of the fiscal year.

Investigations conducted by agents of the board during the period dealt with here numbered fifty and there were thirty-one investigations pending comple-

tion at the close of the period. Prosecutions conducted numbered five. Three convictions were obtained. Four prosecutions were pending completion at the close of the month. Fines assessed by courts amounted to \$150. Suspension or revocations of licenses, none.

Investigations covered a wide range of complaints of alleged offenses against the Medical Practice Act, from illegal advertising, on through the scale to selling mineral water as a curative, illegal use of anatomical material, illegal writing of prescriptions, conducting a medicine show, offering fraudulent credentials and posing as an eye specialist.—*Report to the Governor, Department of Public Health.*

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of Following Letter: Tax Exemption for Non-profit Hospitals—Constitutional Amendment No. 6

The Editors, California and Western Medicine:

Constitutional Amendment No. 6, to be voted upon November 4, 1930, is a measure of personal interest that deserves the votes of all doctors and their patients. Their moral support will mean a great deal to this cause. The House of Delegates at the Del Monte meeting approved tax exemption of non-profit hospitals. California, standing almost alone among the states of the Union in taxing hospitals organized on a nonprofit basis, is really taxing sickness and philanthropy. City and county taxation on the buildings and funds of these hospitals increases hospital costs in some institutions as much as 58 cents per day per patient.

A non-profit hospital (of which there are about 75 in California) is one which is incorporated under the laws of the State of California as non-profit, all earnings from the hospital being devoted to the conduct of the institution. No officers, trustees, or directors receive any dividends, payment or fees for their services.

A study of the facts shows a very clear case for tax exemption. In 1929, sixty-four (reporting) non-profit hospitals gave free service to the extent of \$2,634,753.95. This included free service in outpatient clinics, free and part-pay hospitalization, and educational activities. The maintenance of thirty-three nurses' training schools by these non-profit hospitals amounted to \$382,000. Hundreds of medical students intern in these hospitals. In other words, these hospitals are educating, at their own expense, trained workers who are demanded by the public, and the public in turn is taxing these institutions of learning.

Tax exemption for the non-profit hospital is economically sound. The non-profit hospital bears a public burden. Exemption from the \$325,435.60 tax bill of these 64 non-profit hospitals (we do not have exact figures for the remaining eleven) in 1929 would be the equivalent of granting these hospitals an endowment of twenty times that amount, or \$6,500,000. Bear in mind, also, that the amount of exemption sought, as taxes of 1929 (\$325,435.60) is less than one-sixteenth of one per cent of the total municipal and county tax receipts in California for one year.

Forty-five states in the Union already grant tax relief to their non-profit hospitals, and in recognition of the fact that they bear a large share of the public burden. Is it not fitting that California should join this splendid procession of states? We earnestly ask the support of the readers of this magazine for this measure. Where our cause is understood we receive coöperation, but much needs to be done in the way of informing the voters.

Vote "Yes" on Constitutional Amendment No. 6!

Very truly yours,

HOWARD H. JOHNSON.